

Vanity and philatelic perfins aren't used just in the USA

Personal, vanity, and philatelic perfins—second in a series by Floyd A. Walker

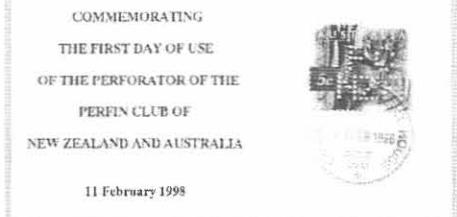
Australia has a new perfins, and in time so will New Zealand. They're the same perfins, in fact.

February 11, 1998, marked the first day of use of the new PC/NZA pattern of the Perfins Club of New Zealand & Australia.

Club secretary John Mathews says the PCNZA was founded in 1987 and members started thinking about their own perfins pattern two years later.

Unfortunately "an adverse relationship" between Club funds and the price of a perforator kept the subject on the back burner until recently. The perforator was finally acquired from Chainstream Ltd. of the UK.

PC
NZA



Mathews says the perfins pattern had to meet strict conditions in accordance with regulations in Australia Posts' Postal Guide, in particular that it must not interfere with the name of the country nor the denomination of the stamp. This, he said, eliminated several of the suggested designs which could not have been reduced sufficiently without becoming unrecognizable. Others involved too many pins to be a realistic engineering problem. Another group of designs (as opposed to letter combinations) would have been meaningful only to someone from Australia or New Zealand. And then there was also the problem of the friendly rivalry between New Zealand and Australia and the need to make sure

that everyone was treated equally.

The resulting pattern is simple and easy to connect with the organization it represents, although one does wish the group had opted for a kangaroo or a kiwi or even the Sydney Harbour bridge and to heck with those who are symbolically challenged.

By the way, the Perfins Club of New Zealand and Australia was founded, we are told, by David Dell, a New Zealander. Today, the club probably has more Australian members but it hasn't changed its name and the current president, Robert Samuel, is a New Zealander.

According to the *Perfin Society Bulletin* of the UK, the PC/NZA pattern has so far been used only on Australian stamps, although its use on the stamps of New Zealand is bound to come sooner or later. It is interesting to note that the PCNZA has its own newsletter—called *The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin*. Clearly the group was walking the tight rope of national sensitivities when they named their publication.

Perfins Club members who would like an example of the PC/NZA pattern for their collection can write to John Mathews, 21 McConnel Crescent, Kambah, ACT 2902, Australia. Send along two US \$1 bills to cover the cost of the return postage—which will come with the new perfins.